



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of **Cheng, Doreen**

Serial No.: **09/176,171**

Filed: **10/21/98**

Title: **DISTRIBUTED SOFTWARE CONTROLLED THEFT DETECTION**

Atty. Docket No.: **PHA 23,503A**

Group Art Unit: **2736**

Examiner: **Pham, T.**

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Amendment/Reply to Office Action

Sir:

Enclosed is a reply in the above-identified application in response to the Office Action dated 25 October 2000.

Please cancel claim ~~34~~.

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 17-20, 25-31, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Valiulis (USP 6,005,476) in view of Rietkerk (USP 5,748,083); and claims 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Valiulis in view of Rietkerk and further in view of Hall et al (USP 5,898,831); and claims 24 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Valiulis in view of Rietkerk, and further in view of Le Van Suu (USP 5,714,933).

The issue date of Valiulis is 21 December 1999, and the filing date of Valiulis is 24 July 1998. Attached is a declaration by the Inventor of the claimed invention, and a statement by the undersigned, certifying that the subject matter of the claimed invention predates the filing date of Valiulis. Because the issue date of Valiulis is after the Applicant's filing date, and because the filing date of Valiulis is after the Applicant's date of invention, the Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejections based on Valiulis are

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